

February 28, 2018

Commissioner Robert Taub, Chairman
Commissioner Tony Hammond, Vice Chairman
Commissioner Nanci Langley
Commissioner Mark Acton
Postal Regulatory Commission
901 New York Avenue, NW, Suite 200
Washington, DC 20268

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POSTAL REGULATORY
COMMISSION
FEB 28 2018

RE: Docket No. RM2017-3

Dear Commissioners:

We join the National Catholic Development Conference (NCDC), the Alliance of Nonprofit Mailers, and the nonprofit mailing community in urging you to reconsider your proposal to increase postage rates several times the rate of inflation. Increases that are estimated to reach 7 percent a year, or 40 percent compounded for five years, will not reform the United States Postal Service and will have a major negative impact on both the agency and its customers.

As a nonprofit, we rely on mail for the majority of our fundraising. But we operate on a limited, fixed fundraising budget each year, so if postage goes up as much as you contemplate, we will be forced to greatly reduce our mailings. This will have a disastrous impact on our revenue and our mission.

Our mission at the Diocese of Joliet is to strive to be the Body of Christ by living the Faith, preaching the Word, building community, serving others, especially the poor and celebrating our unity through the sacraments. The Diocese of Joliet serves people of diverse races and cultures in seven counties.

Postage increases totaling 40 percent over the next five years will have a devastating impact on our mission and the people we serve and limit our resources! The postage increase would severely impact our ability to provide for the needs of those less fortunate!

Please do the right thing and reconsider your proposal. The people we serve are counting on you! Please do not let them down!

Gratefully,



Mary Bannon
Director of Strategic Projects
Diocese of Joliet, Illinois